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SENATOR HARDIMAN INTRODUCES RESOLUTION THAT SUPPORTS CREATING AN OFFICE OF FAITH BASED INITIATIVES IN MICHIGAN

LANSING – Today, State Senator Bill Hardiman, (R-Kentwood) introduced Senate Resolution 139 (SR139) expressing support for the creation of an Office of Faith Based Initiative in the State of Michigan.

“Michigan has been blessed by a commitment of helping individuals, families, and communities who have not fully shared in America’s prosperity,” said Hardiman. “Despite efforts from federal and state governments to battle social distress, too many of our neighbors still suffer from poverty and despair. An Office of Faith Based Initiative located here in Michigan would help implement real programs and strengthen our families and communities,” said Hardiman.

Currently there are more than \$65 billion in federal grant opportunities from multiple federal agencies. President Bush is calling on each state to assist in these efforts by creating an office to the faith-based community. The biggest problem that faces these faith communities when applying for federal funds is the discouragement during a seemingly convoluted process.

In February of 2003 Senator Hardiman received bi-partisan support for SR 7, a resolution expressing support for proposed federal rules permitting faith-based human service organizations to apply for housing and homeless grants through the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

SR 139 was referred to the Families and Human Service Committee for consideration.

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